

IN THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently Amended). A method comprising:
wirelessly linking a plurality of shopping carts within a retail facility through a local area network based in the retail facility; and
enabling the carts to communicate with one another ~~exchange information~~ through said network.

2 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1 wherein wirelessly linking includes providing wireless access to a server by said plurality of carts within said retail facility.

3 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1 including providing a processor-based device on a shopping cart to retail customers that wirelessly communicates with a server.

4 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 3 including enabling said customers to activate said device by swiping a credit card through a slot in said device.

5 (Original). The method of claim 1 including receiving audible communications from said carts.

6 (Original). The method of claim 1 including enabling carts to communicate via text messages with one another over said network.

7 (Original). The method of claim 1 including pushing electronic files to the carts.

8 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1 including providing information about a current location of a processor-based device associated with a cart.

9 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 8 including providing said information about the cart's location to a server.

10 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 9 including pushing said information to the cart depending on the cart's current location.

11 (Currently Amended). An article comprising a medium storing instructions that, if executed, enable a processor-based system to:

wirelessly link a plurality of shopping carts within a retail facility through a wireless local area network based in the retail facility; and

enable the carts to exchange information with one another through said network.

12 (Previously Presented). An article of claim 11 further storing said instructions that enable the processor-based system to be accessed wirelessly by said plurality of carts within the retail facility.

13 (Previously Presented). The article of claim 11 further storing said instructions that enable the processor-based system to recognize a processor-based device on a shopping cart used by a customer in response to a credit card swipe through a slot in said device.

14 (Previously Presented). The article of claim 11 further storing said instructions that enable the processor-based system to receive audible communications from said carts.

15 (Previously Presented). The article of claim 14 further storing said instructions that enable the processor-based system to broadcast audio files to said carts.

16 (Previously Presented). The article of claim 11 further storing said instructions that enable the processor-based system to enable the carts to communicate via text messages with one another over said network.

17 (Previously Presented). The article of claim 11 further storing said instructions that enable the processor-based system to push electronic files to the carts.

18 (Previously Presented). The article of claim 11 further storing said instructions that enable the processor-based system to provide additional information about a current location of a processor-based device associated with a cart.

19 (Previously Presented). The article of 18 further storing said instructions that enable the processor-based system to determine the cart's location.

20 (Previously Presented). The article of claim 19 further storing said instructions that enable the processor-based system to push said information to a cart depending on the cart's current location.

21 (Currently Amended). A system comprising:
a shopping cart;
a processor mounted on said cart; and
a storage coupled to said processor to wirelessly link a plurality of carts within a retail facility through a local area network based in the retail facility and enable carts to exchange information with one another through said network.

22 (Original). The system of claim 21 including a housing, said processor mounted in said housing.

23 (Original). The system of claim 22 wherein said housing is adjustably mountable on said cart.

24 (Original). The system of claim 22 wherein said cart includes a handle and said housing is mounted on said handle.

25 (Original). The system of claim 21 further including a wireless transceiver.

26 (Original). The system of claim 21 further including an interface to enable network communications.

27 (Original). The system of claim 21 including a position locating device coupled to said processor.

28 (Original). The system of claim 21 including an audio transducer coupled to said processor.

29 (Original). The system of claim 21 including a card reader coupled to said processor.

30 (Original). The system of claim 21 including a bar code scanner coupled to said processor.